

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
CHARLESTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Criminal No: 2:20-cr-541

v.

**PLEA AGREEMENT**

**TEARRA NA'ASIA GUTHRIE**

**General Provisions**

This PLEA AGREEMENT is made this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020, between the United States of America, as represented by United States Attorney PETER M. MCCOY, JR., Assistant United States Attorneys Emily Limehouse and Matt Austin; the Defendant, **TEARRA NA'ASIA GUTHRIE**, and Defendant's attorneys, Grant Smaldone.

IN CONSIDERATION of the mutual promises made herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count 1 of the Information now pending, which charges:

That on or about May 30, 2020, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendant, **TEARRA NA'ASIA GUTHRIE**, did knowingly commit acts to obstruct, impede, and interfere with any law enforcement officer lawfully engaged in the lawful performance of official duties incident to and during the commission of a civil disorder, which in any way and degree obstructed, delayed, and adversely affected commerce and the movement of any article and commodity in commerce and the conduct and performance of any federally protected function, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 231(a)(3) and 2.

In order to sustain its burden of proof, the Government is required to prove the following:

That on or about May 30, 2020, in the District of South Carolina,

- A. A civil disorder existed at the time of any alleged violation;
- B. That such civil disorder was resulting in interference with commerce;

- C. That one or more law enforcement officers were lawfully engaged in the lawful performance of their official duties incident to and during the commission of such civil disorder;
- D. That the Defendant attempted to commit an act for the intended purpose of obstructing, impeding, or interfering, either by himself or with someone else, in a violent manner with such law enforcement officer or officers; and
- E. That such attempt to act was done willfully and knowingly.

The penalty for this offense is:

A term of imprisonment of not more than 5 years, fine of \$250,000.00, supervised release of 3 years, and a special assessment of \$100.00.

- 2. The Defendant understands and agrees that monetary penalties [i.e., special assessments, restitution, fines and other payments required under the sentence] imposed by the Court are due and payable immediately and subject to enforcement by the United States as civil judgments, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3613. In the event the Court imposes a schedule for payment of restitution, the Defendant also understands that payments made in accordance with installment schedules set by the Court are minimum payments only and do not preclude the Government from seeking to enforce the judgment against other assets of the Defendant at any time, as provided in 18 U.S.C. §§ 3612, 3613 and 3664(m). The Defendant further agrees to enter into the Bureau of Prisons Inmate Financial Repayment Program if sentenced to a term of incarceration with an unsatisfied monetary penalty. The Defendant further understands that any monetary penalty imposed is not dischargeable in bankruptcy.

- A. Special Assessment: Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3013, the Defendant must pay a special assessment of \$100.00 for each felony count for which he is convicted. This special assessment must be paid at or before the time of the guilty plea hearing or during participation in the Bureau of Prisons Inmate Financial Repayment Program if this plea results in incarceration.

- B. Restitution: The Defendant agrees to make full restitution under 18 U.S.C. § 3556 in an amount to be determined by the Court at the time of sentencing, which amount is not limited to the count(s) to which the Defendant pled guilty, but will include restitution to each and every identifiable victim who may have been harmed by his scheme or pattern of criminal activity, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663. The Defendant agrees to cooperate fully with the Government in identifying all victims. Upon demand, the Defendant shall submit a personal financial statement under oath and submit to interviews by the government and the U.S. Probation Office regarding the Defendant's capacity to satisfy any fines or restitution. The Defendant expressly authorizes the U.S. Attorney's Office to immediately obtain a credit report on the Defendant in order to evaluate the Defendant's ability to satisfy any financial obligation imposed by the Court. The Defendant understands that the Defendant has a continuing obligation to pay in full as soon as possible any financial obligation imposed by the Court.
- C. Fines: The Defendant understands that the Court may impose a fine pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3571 and 3572.

3. The Defendant understands that the obligations of the Government within the Plea Agreement are expressly contingent upon the Defendant's abiding by federal and state laws and complying with any bond executed in this case. In the event that the Defendant fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Agreement, either express or implied, the Government will have the right, at its sole election, to void all of its obligations under this Agreement and the Defendant will not have any right to withdraw his/her plea of guilty to the offense(s) enumerated herein.

#### Cooperation

4. The Defendant agrees to be fully truthful and forthright with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies by providing full, complete and truthful information about all criminal activities about which he/she has knowledge. The Defendant must provide full, complete and truthful debriefings about these unlawful activities and must fully disclose and provide truthful information to the Government including any books, papers, or documents or any other items of evidentiary value to the investigation. The Defendant



must also testify fully and truthfully before any grand juries and at any trials or other proceedings if called upon to do so by the Government, subject to prosecution for perjury for not testifying truthfully. The failure of the Defendant to be fully truthful and forthright at any stage will, at the sole election of the Government, cause the obligations of the Government within this Agreement to become null and void. Further, it is expressly agreed that if the obligations of the Government within this Agreement become null and void due to the lack of truthfulness on the part of the Defendant, the Defendant understands that:

- A. the Defendant will not be permitted to withdraw his/her plea of guilty to the offenses described above;
  - B. all additional charges known to the Government may be filed in the appropriate district;
  - C. the Government will argue for a maximum sentence for the offense to which the Defendant has pleaded guilty; and
  - D. the Government will use any and all information and testimony provided by the Defendant pursuant to this Agreement, or any prior proffer agreements, in the prosecution of the Defendant of all charges.
5. The Defendant agrees to submit to such polygraph examinations as may be requested by the Government and agrees that any such examinations shall be performed by a polygraph examiner selected by the Government. Defendant further agrees that his/her refusal to take or his/her failure to pass any such polygraph examination to the Government's satisfaction will result, at the Government's sole discretion, in the obligations of the Government within the Agreement becoming null and void.
6. The Government agrees that any self-incriminating information provided by the Defendant as a result of the cooperation required by the terms of this Agreement, although available to the Court, will not be used against the Defendant in determining the Defendant's applicable guideline range for sentencing pursuant to the United States Sentencing

Commission Guidelines. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be applied to restrict any such information:

- A. known to the Government prior to the date of this Agreement;
  - B. concerning the existence of prior convictions and sentences;
  - C. in a prosecution for perjury or giving a false statement;
  - D. in the event the Defendant breaches any of the terms of the Plea Agreement; or
  - E. used to rebut any evidence or arguments offered by or on behalf of the Defendant (including arguments made or issues raised *sua sponte* by the District Court) at any stage of the criminal prosecution (including bail, trial, and sentencing).
7. Provided the Defendant cooperates and otherwise complies with all the conditions of this Plea Agreement, the United States agrees not to pursue additional charges for arson, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, § 844, which carry a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 5 years. The Defendant understands that the United States' agreement not to pursue additional charges is *in lieu of* a motion for downward departure pursuant to § 5K1.1 of the United States Sentencing Commission Guidelines. The Defendant understands that the Court may consider this additional conduct as relevant conduct pursuant to § 1B1.3 of the United States Sentencing Commission Guidelines.

#### **Merger and Other Provisions**

8. The Defendant represents to the court that he/she has met with his/her attorney on a sufficient number of occasions and for a sufficient period of time to discuss the Defendant's case and receive advice; that the Defendant has been truthful with his/her attorney and related all information of which the Defendant is aware pertaining to the case; that the Defendant and his attorney have discussed possible defenses, if any, to the charges in the

Indictment including the existence of any exculpatory or favorable evidence or witnesses, discussed the Defendant's right to a public trial by jury or by the Court, the right to the assistance of counsel throughout the proceedings, the right to call witnesses in the Defendant's behalf and compel their attendance at trial by subpoena, the right to confront and cross-examine the Government's witnesses, the Defendant's right to testify in his own behalf, or to remain silent and have no adverse inferences drawn from his/her silence; and that the Defendant, with the advice of counsel, has weighed the relative benefits of a trial by jury or by the Court versus a plea of guilty pursuant to this Agreement, and has entered this Agreement as a matter of the Defendant's free and voluntary choice, and not as a result of pressure or intimidation by any person.

9. The Defendant is aware that 18 U.S.C. § 3742 and 28 U.S.C. § 2255 afford every defendant certain rights to contest a conviction and/or sentence. Acknowledging those rights, the Defendant, in exchange for the concessions made by the Government in this Plea Agreement, waives the right to contest either the conviction or the sentence in any direct appeal or other post-conviction action, including any proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. This waiver does not apply to claims of ineffective assistance of counsel, prosecutorial misconduct, or future changes in the law that affect the Defendant's sentence. This agreement does not affect the rights or obligations of the Government as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b). Nor does it limit the Government in its comments in or responses to any post-sentencing matters.
10. The Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including without limitation any records that



may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a.

11. The parties hereby agree that this Plea Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties; that this Agreement supersedes all prior promises, representations and statements of the parties; that this Agreement shall not be binding on any party until the Defendant tenders a plea of guilty to the court having jurisdiction over this matter; that this Agreement may be modified only in writing signed by all parties; and that any and all other promises, representations and statements, whether made prior to, contemporaneous with or after this Agreement, are null and void.

8/05/20  
Date

8/5/2020  
Date

Tearra Guthrie  
Tearra Guthrie,  
Defendant

Grant Smaldone  
Grant Smaldone, Esquire  
Defense Attorney

PETER M. MCCOY, JR.  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

8/13/2020  
Date

Emily Limehouse  
Emily Limehouse (Fed. ID #12300)  
Assistant United States Attorney